

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Minutes

July 9, 2003

Pierce Park, Appleton

Attendance:

Voting Members: Mark Dochnahl, Jeff Edgar, Christine Giese, Jeff Gorman, Laura Jull, Dave Liska, Ken Ottman, Joan Stevens, Dan Trass, Richard Welch, Joe Wilson,

Ex-officio non-voting: Bria Radtke, Dick Rideout

Guests: Mike Michlig, Tracy Salisbury, Jessica Schmidt, Kristina Skowronski.

Absent: Bruce Allison, Linda Barcz, Lisa Burban, Wayne Glowac, Kevin Hinckley, Leif Hubbard, Ken Keeley, Greg Lancaster, Mike Maddox, Heather Mann, Bob Skiera

1. Call to order at 9:45 a.m.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

2. Financial Report

Dick Rideout presented the financial report, noting that the budget is still in the plus despite public relations and TCUSA banquet going slightly over-budget. Question marks refer to costs not yet submitted from the May meeting.

Motion to approve the financial report was made, seconded and passed.

3. DNR Report

Dick Rideout reported that after meeting with the state forester, the council should respond to the support given by Joint Finance committee members for the additional \$100,000 in Urban Forestry grants, despite the fact that it was only in the budget because of a drafting error. It was decided that a letter will be sent from the council to the 6 individuals on the committee that voted to keep the grant funds. In addition, staff will create customized fact sheets on urban forestry for the members of the Assembly's forestry committee and the Senate's environmental committee including urban forestry grant recipients in the members' districts. The fact sheets could also be customized for other council member's representatives. The concept of a legislative workshop for council members was also discussed.

After talking to the state forester, Dick Rideout suggested that the council draft a letter to Paul DeLong stating that urban forestry should be part of both the programming and design of the Forestry Education Center, and that the council would like a liaison on the committee. Joe Wilson suggested that the council should follow Wendy McCown's lead on the message for this project because other Milwaukee area organizations are only luke-warm about the idea.

Dick also reported that the DNR will be interviewing a lateral transfer candidate for Dave Stephenson's position next week. John Van Ells was just granted a disability and so the hiring process for that position will begin soon. If outside recruitment occurs, Dick hopes to advertise and interview for both positions simultaneously.

The \$77,000 of inner-city funds from the Forest Service was allocated as follows: \$57,000 will be going to the 2004 urban forestry grant process. The remaining 20,000 will be used internally, most of

which will be spent on contracting Tim Womick to present his Trail of Trees program around the state for 6 weeks next summer.

4. Council Nominations

Dave Liska reported that 7 members' terms expired on June 30th, 2003. Roald Evensen has resigned after 9 years on the council. The other six, Jeff Edgar, Wayne Glowac Ken Keeley, Dave Liska, Bob Skiera and Dan Trass were nominated for reappointment. Also nominated to the council as new members were Mike Michlig, who represents the Northeast Urban Forestry Working Group and Tim Bauknecht from the village of Ashwaubenon who will expand representation of smaller communities. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the nominations and forward them to the State Forester and the Secretary for appointment.

5. Council Representatives at the NUFAC.

Joe Wilson will be attending the National Urban Forestry Conference in San Antonio, this fall as a representative of the council in place of vice-chair Dave Liska.

6. NUCFAC Report

Joe Wilson, one of Wisconsin's two members of the National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council, reported that this council currently provides 1 million dollars/year for grants. The application process and information can be found on www.treelink.org as soon as they are finished.

Joe also reported that the NUCFAC meeting in Reno was a success, and that NUCFAC is looking for possibly four more representatives. These include non-government affiliated in city less than 50,000, city/town government rep., an academic institution rep and a national non-profit rep.

7. 20 strategic plan actions for DNR to Implement

Dick reported that 17 out of 24 people responded to the "Top 20" homework assignment. The compiled results show that the first three items received over half the votes. His question was should the council take this any farther? And was this acceptable to use?

Much discussion was given on this topic. Discussion on the role the DNR should take, how the numbers can not be compared equally because they are weighted differently, that it shouldn't necessarily go goal to goal but focus on a few/year (the ones most closely related). However, most everyone agreed on that the number one ranked, public awareness, was in fact needed the most, or was most lacking. The council members re-voted only specifying down to the objective level what they thought the top 5 should be. Dick will do the top number crunching and also compile the ranking of the goals from the original exercise and provide them to the council. This will allow the council to write a series of recommendations.

8. Strategic Planning

Dave Liska reported that description of the role council members should have will follow shortly. Council actions will be decided after the strategic plan actions are analyzed in more detail.

9. New Business

The Urban Forestry Council awards should be discussed or put on the agenda, in order to remind council members of nominations that should be down. The awards include Long term partnership, Distinguished service, and Project partnership. There was also some discussion of creating a new description and new award in an innovation category. Joe Wilson and Dan Trass will be working on that.

Dick provided two handouts from Lisa Burban. The first describes highlights of her seven states' urban forestry programs. The second reported on how Marquette University convinced Senator Kohl to have urban forestry money earmarked for tree planting at the campus. Again, it's impressive to see the support from the reps.

The next meeting will be held on October 15th, 2003. Dick will arrange for a room in the state capitol. Guests could include the state forester, and individual representatives. Council members will be encouraged to meet with their representatives or their staff in the afternoon.

Motion to Adjourn passed at 2:30pm.

Mike Michlig of Appleton forestry talked briefly on the situations that he has had to face recently with the increasing presence of Gypsy Moth and a significant storm from 2001. He took members on a walking tour of Pierce park showing the current infestation and their post-storm repair and replanting efforts.

Respectfully submitted

Kristina Skowronski
South East Region
Urban Forestry Assistant